

Message Text

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TAGS: OGEN, PGOV, SHUM, CI

SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 17-20

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 1927 (B) SANTIAGO 1893

1. PROPPER'S ARRIVAL. "LA TERCERA" MARCH 20 REPORTED THE ARRIVAL IN SANTIAGO MARCH 19 OF U.S. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY PROPPER. THE INFORMATION APPARENTLY CAME FROM AIRPORT POLICE SOURCES. (COMMENT: THE EMBASSY NOTIFIED ALL MEDIA MARCH 20 OF PROPPER'S ARRIVAL.)

2. JUDICIAL ACTIONS. FIRST CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ TOLD THE PRESS MARCH 18. THAT USG LAWYER ALFREDO ETCHEBERRY'S REQUESTS (PARA 1, REF B) HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH, BUT THAT RESULTS TO DATE HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED THE TRUE IDENTITIES OF JUAN WILLIAMS AND ALEJANDRO ROMERAL. LIBEDINSKY TOLD REPORTERS MARCH 17 THAT HIS INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED THAT "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL" HAD TRAVELED TO THE U.S. ON AN AERO PERU FLIGHT; HAD OBTAINED THEIR TICKETS FROM A TRAVEL AGENCY, PAYING IN CASH; AND HAD RETURNED TO CHILE ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1976. THE JUDGE PROMISED "IMPORTANT NEW REVELATIONS" THIS WEEK.

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3. MEDIA COMMENT. IN A "LA TERCERA" COLUMN OF MARCH 20 RIGHT-WINGER AND FORMER HEAD OF "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" PABLO RODRIQUEZ ATTACKS THE US, PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE CHILEAN JUDGES INVESTIGATING THE LETELIER AFFAIR. RODRIQUEZ LINKS THE LETELIER INVESTIGATION TO THE "INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN CARRIED OUT AGAINST CHILE BY SOVIET

IMPEIALISM" AND ACCUSES PRESIDENT CARTER OF BEING INTERESTED IN THE DESTABILIZATION OF THE GOC: THAT THE U.S. SHOULD JOIN CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION IN ATTACKING CHILE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, CAN BEST BE APPRECIATED IF ONE NOTES PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECLINING POPULARITY -- ITSELF A FUNCTION OF HIS INABILITY TO SOLVE DOMESTIC ISSUES -- AND THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO APPEASE HIS PARTY'S LIBERAL SECTORS. RODRIQUEZ: GOES ON: "I SUSPECT THAT HIDDEN BEHIND THIS EPISODE (LETELIER) LIES AN ALREADY ADOPTED OBJECTIVE TO PROVOKE A SERIOUS COOLING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILE AND THE U.S. WHICH WOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BLOCKADE... IT APPEARS THAT THE POWERFUL (U.S.) RULERS DID NOT LEARN ANYTHING FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH CUBA." REGARDING THE TWO JUDGES (GONZALEZ AND LIBEDINSKY), RODRIGUEZ BELIEVES THAT BOTH HAVE ACTED IMPROPERLY IN DISCUSSING THEIR FINDINGS - WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO REMAIN UNDER WRAPS DURING THE INVESTIGATION. HE CONCLUDES THAT THOSE BEHIND THIS CONSPIRACY AGAINST CHILE MUST BE UNMASKED: OTHERWISE, THE 75 PER CENT OF CHILEANS WHO LOVE THE NEW INSTITUTIONALITY, WILL BE THE VICTIMS OF DISPLACED POLITICIANS (THE EXILES) WHO, LACKING INTERNAL SUPPORT, PLACE THEIR HOPES FOR REGAINING CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY ON GREAT POWER IMPERIALISM.

4. THIS AFTERNOON "LA SEQUUNDA" NOTES PROPPER'S PRESENCE IN SANTIAGO AND THAT HE AND ETCHEBERRY CALLED ON JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ.
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